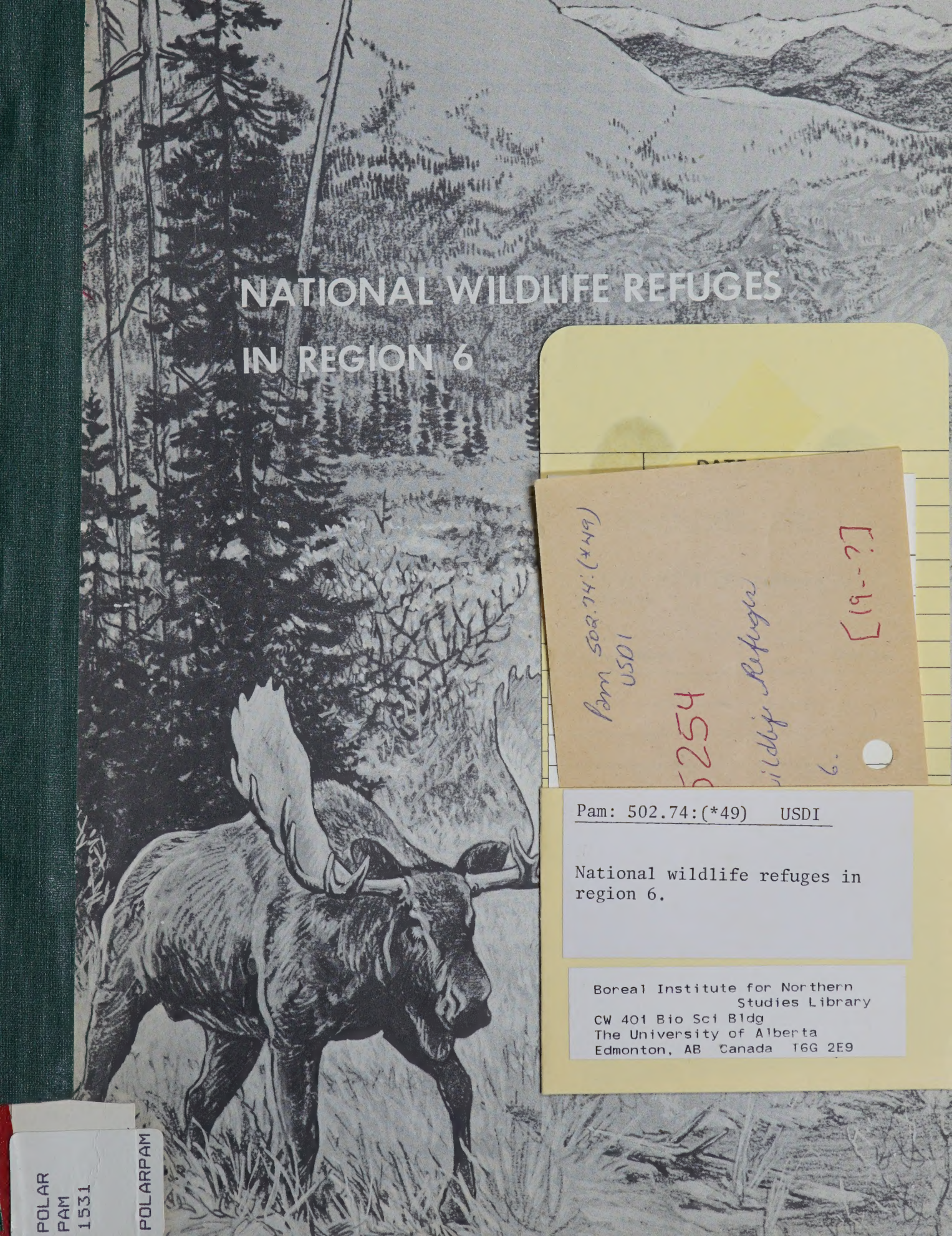

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES IN REGION 6

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National wildlife refuges in region 6.

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Public lands under custody of the United States Government provide for the protection and management of resources of national importance including timber, grazing lands, wildlife, outstanding scenic or natural areas, historic shrines, and water resources. Those lands dedicated primarily to the preservation of wildlife resources comprise the National Wildlife Refuge System, administered by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. More than 290 refuges within this system provide nesting, feeding, and resting areas for a large segment of the continental waterfowl population. Included also are refuges specifically for endangered wildlife species and for the preservation of important representative ecological types with their associated animal life.

Administratively, activities of this Bureau are grouped geographically into six regions. This leaflet describes briefly the National Wildlife Refuges in Region 6, which is the State of Alaska. The first Alaskan wildlife refuges were established during the period 1908 to 1912. Included were some of the major seabird nesting islands of North America. Additional refuges for certain species of big game, sea mammals, and important nesting and resting grounds for migratory waterfowl of the Pacific and other Flyways have since been established.

Representative ecological units of habitat are provided for prominent wildlife species that occur in Alaska. These include the moose, brown bear Dall's sheep, mountain goat, caribou, muskox, sea otter, trumpeter swan, and numerous indigenous fur animals and upland game species.

Alaska refuge management is directed principally toward maintenance of the original ecological features basic to the area's value for wildlife. In some cases, measures have been taken through decades to restore depleted wildlife populations, such as the sea otter, to former abundance, or to build populations of a desired species like the muskox. In other instances, habitat development is required to maintain wildlife populations in the face of successional vegetative changes or the advances of civilization.

While the Kenai National Moose Range is adjacent to heavy population centers and receives much public recreational use, most of the Alaskan refuges are remote and without visitor facilities. Nevertheless, all can provide rewards to the well-equipped and self-sustained wildlife observer. Eight of the larger refuges are open to hunting and fishing, in accordance with yearly regulations, to the extent permitted by the conservation requirements of the species the area serves.

A brief description of each refuge in Region 6 follows. Informational leaflets and bird lists for the major refuges (Aleutian, Kodiak, and Kenai) are available from the office of the Refuge Manager at the mailing address indicated. For general information, address the Regional Director, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Box 2021, Juneau, Alaska.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
BUREAU OF SPORT FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

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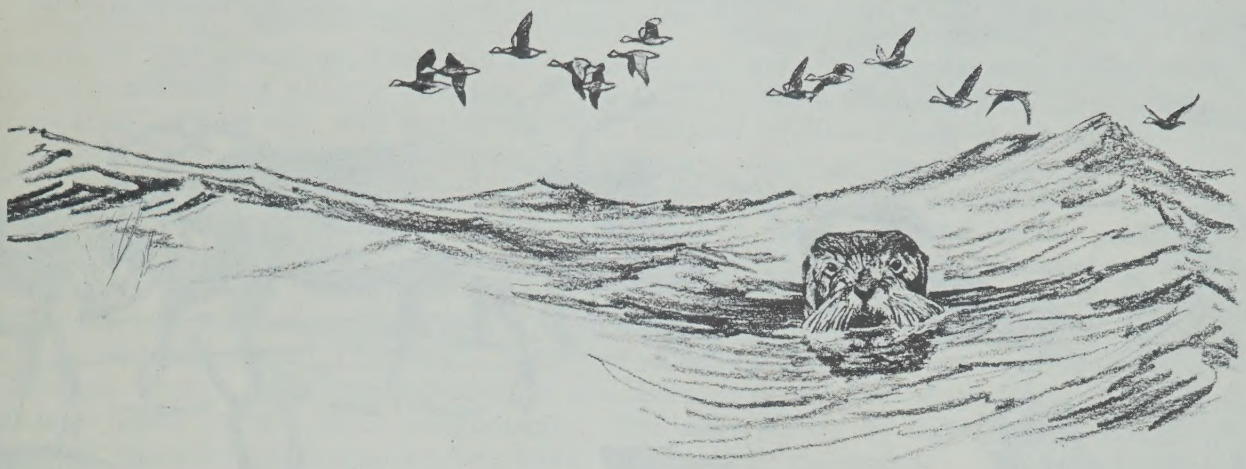
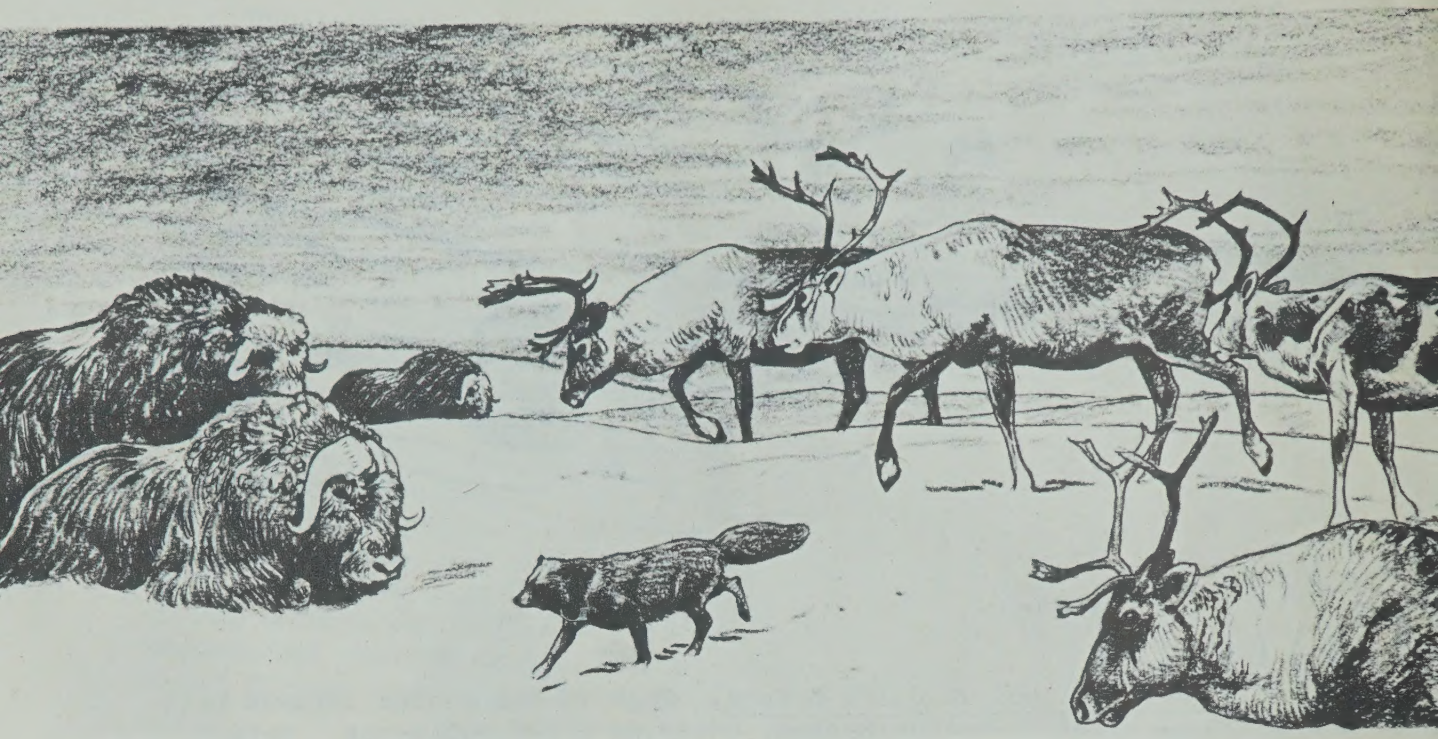


Sea Otter

Aleutian Islands National Wildlife Refuge. This is the second largest unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System, covering 2,720,200 acres. Extending 1,000 linear miles westward from the Alaska Peninsula, it includes 200 islands, and comprises all of the Aleutian Chain with the exception of Akun, Akutan, Sanak, Tigalda, Unmak, and Unalaska. A multiple purpose area, it provides sanctuary for numerous colonies of seabirds. A primary objective is the restoration of the sea otter. This objective nears fulfillment, for during the 48 years of refuge status sea otters have increased from near extinction to a population estimated at 20,000. Unimak Island, on the eastern end of the refuge, has fauna and flora characteristics of the Alaska Peninsula, and supports the Alaska brown bear and caribou. Portions of the refuge are open to the hunting of migratory birds, upland game, and big game. All waters are open to sport fishing. Although access is generally difficult, a commerical airline serves the Aleutians. Many airfields are within military defense zones and require prior clearance for visitors. Mailing address: Cold Bay, Alaska.

Arctic National Wildlife Range. This 8,900,000-acre range was established in December 1960 in the north-eastern corner of Alaska. It represents the only area with opportunity to preserve an undisturbed portion of arctic environment large enough to be biologically self-sufficient. It is considered one of the most mignificent wildlife and wilderness areas in North America. The objectives of the range are to preserve unique wildlife, wilderness, and recreational values. Major game species within the range include the grizzly, black, and polar bears, caribou, Dall's sheep, moose, wolverines and other fur animals, waterfowl, and upland nesting birds. Management will be directed to the maintenance of natural conditions of the range. This range is expected to yield rich results in the study of biological features of an undisturbed natural arctic environment. The well-equipped sportsman will find wide opportunities for hunting, fishing, and wilderness travel. Travel to the range is by private or charter aircraft only. Headquarters are in the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Building, Fairbanks, Alaska. Field headquarters are maintained within the range during certain times of the year. Administered by the Refuge Manager, 1412 Airport Way, Fairbanks.



Musk Ox Blue Fox Reindeer

Bering Sea National Wildlife Refuge. This refuge, comprising St. Matthew and Hall Islands in the Bering Sea, was established in 1909 primarily to benefit migratory birds. It is 250 miles from the mainland of Alaska--west of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta--and contains 41,100 acres. Within this refuge is a colonial seabird nesting area 5 miles long. This rookery contains one of the largest fulmar colonies in existence together with parakeet auklets, horned puffins, pelagic cormorants, and thick-billed murres. The rare McKay's bunting is known to nest only on the uplands of this island. Reindeer introduced as an emergency food source during World War II have now grown to a large herd. Remote, uninhabited, and infrequently visited by vessels, the islands offer little opportunity for the casual visitor. Reindeer may be hunted under permit. Administered by the Refuge Manager, Box 500, Kenai.

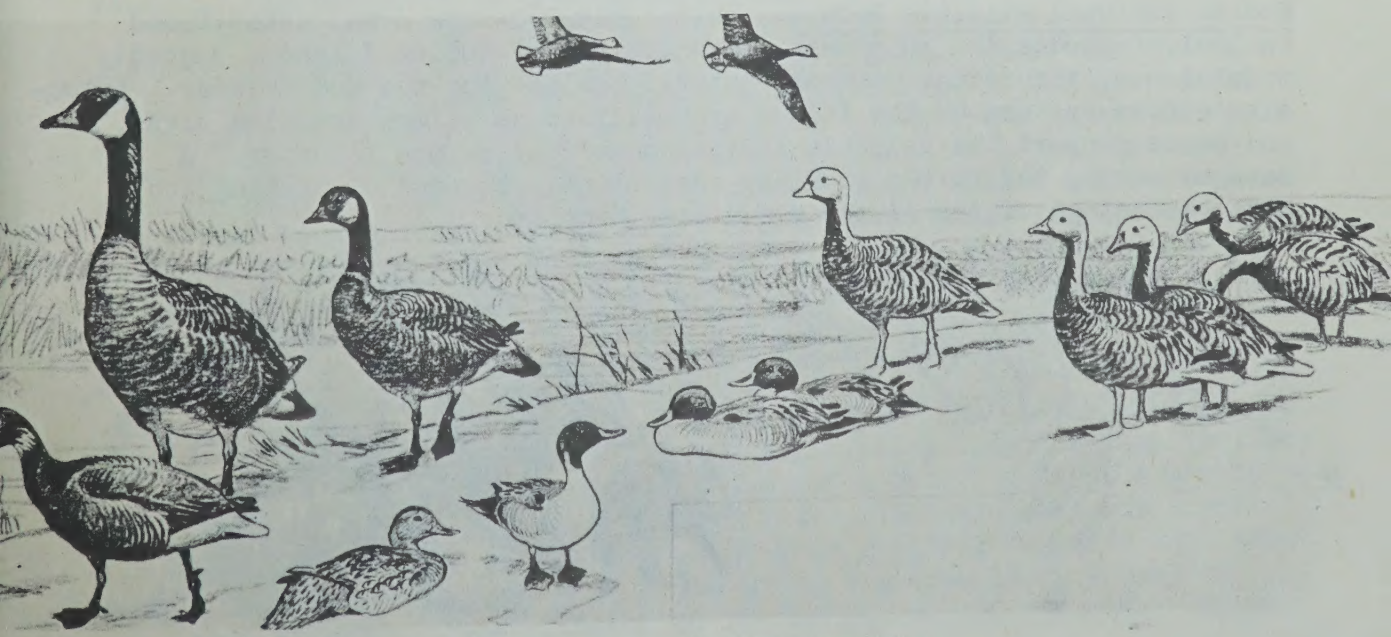
Bogoslof National Wildlife Refuge. This refuge of 390 acres consists of small volcanic islets in the Bering Sea, 30 miles north of Umnak Island in the Aleutian Chain. Established in 1909, the area contains important seabird rookeries including one of the largest thick-billed and common murre colonies in Alaska. Red-faced cormorants are also prominent in the nesting populations. Large and well-known sea lion colonies occupy available beaches. Remote and uninhabited, this refuge is not easily visited. Administered by the Refuge Manager, Cold Bay.

Chamisso National Wildlife Refuge. This is one of the most important breeding areas for arctic seabirds on the northwest coast of Alaska. It consists of Chamisso Island, Puffin Island, and adjacent islets in the Kotzebue Sound. Established in 1912, it is 641 acres in extent. Prominent species include horned puffins, thick-billed murres, black-legged kittiwakes, and gulls. Closed to hunting, Administered by the Refuge Manager, Box 500, Kenai.

Clarence Rhode National Wildlife Range. This waterfowl nesting area was established in December 1960. It includes 1,800,000 acres of low-lying tundra on the coast of the Bering Sea, and extends from Hooper Bay to Kipnuk, excluding Nelson Island. It is the primary nesting area for the "cackling" goose and the major nesting grounds of the black brant in the United States. A high proportion of Alaska's emperor geese breed here. Other breeding waterfowl include the "lesser" Canada and white-fronted goose, whistling swan, eider, pintail, greater scaup, common scoter, old-squaw, and several others. Sandhill cranes and numerous shorebirds also nest on the range. Many ornithologists of note have found the range a mecca for bird study. Waterfowl hunting is permitted. Headquarters are maintained at Bethel, Alaska. Summer field headquarters are on the Kashunuk River. No accommodations are available on the range, hence the visitor must arrive self-sufficient. Transportation to and from the range is available through commercial aircraft charter at Bethel. Administered by the Refuge Manager, Bethel.

Forrester Island National Wildlife Refuge. Established in 1912, this refuge is at the extreme southeastern boundary of Alaska west of Ketchikan. It comprises 2,800 acres and consists of Forrester and Lourie Island, as well as Wolf and other adjacent rocks. These wooded islands provide sanctuary for cliff-nesting seabirds including murres, puffins, auklets, gulls, and cormorants. Closed to hunting and fishing. Administered by the Refuge Manager, Box 500, Kenai.

Hazen Bay National Wildlife Refuge. This refuge includes the islands of Nunivakchak and Krigegaz, north of Nelson Island on the Bering Sea coast, at the northern outlet of Baird Inlet. The area was established in 1937 and comprises 6,800 acres. Consisting of low-lying tundra, it is a concentrated nesting area for the black brant and "cackling" goose. Emperor geese, oldsquaws, greater scaups, and other waterfowl also nest on the islands. This refuge is adjacent to and similar in function to the Clarence Rhode National Wildlife Range. Closed to hunting and trapping. Administered by the Refuge Manager, Bethel.



Waterfowl (from left):
Black Brant, Western Canada Goose, Cackling Goose, Pintail Ducks, Emperor Geese.

Hazy Islands National Wildlife Refuge. This small 42-acre wooded islet was established in 1912 to protect seabird colonies. It is off the coast of southeast Alaska approximately 15 miles south of Baranof Island. Closed to hunting. Administered by the Refuge Manager, Box 500, Kenai.

Izembek National Wildlife Range. Established in December 1960, this refuge of 415,000 acres is on the tip of the Alaska Peninsula. This valuable waterfowl feeding area provides vast eelgrass beds in Izembek Bay together with bordering upland tundra. The tidal lagoons of this range support the continent's entire black brant population for two to three months each year, hence this range may be essential to the survival of this species. It is also a principal migration unit for "cackling" and "lesser" Canada geese and supports a number of other species during the fall and early winter period. Hunting for waterfowl and ptarmigan is popular. Upland areas are a favored range for the Alaska brown bear and caribou. Spectacular in scenic features, the range provides an unusual opportunity for the observation of many species of waterfowl during the migration period. Limited accommodations are available at Cold Bay through airlines which serve the area. Headquarters are maintained at Cold Bay, an airline terminal. Administered by the Refuge Manager, Cold Bay.

Kenai National Moose Range. Dedicated in 1941 primarily to the management of moose, this area of 1,804,500 acres occupies the western slopes of the Kenai Mountain Range and the glaciated lowland bordering Cook Inlet. The refuge also provides important ranges for Dall's sheep, mountain goats, brown and black bears, fur animals, upland game animals, and waterfowl. The lake-dotted lowland provides a good nesting ground for the rare trumpeter swan. The area is subject to intensive range improvement for moose. Hunting and fishing are permitted. Camping, boating, and other temporary uses are authorized without permit. Trapping, timber cutting, and other commercial uses are under permit issued by the Refuge Manager at Kenai. Public campgrounds are available adjacent to the highway system. Headquarters are in the city of Kenai. Mailing Address: Box 500, Kenai.

Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge. This 1,815,000-acre area, established in 1941, includes the southwestern two-thirds of Kodiak Island. Ruggedly mountainous, the refuge provides natural habitat for the Kodiak bear. Extensive stream systems on the island are utilized as salmon spawning areas and hence support the valuable Kodiak commercial salmon industry. A managed range, the refuge provides consistently successful hunting and a high percentage of top Alaska brown bear trophies.

Black Bears

Opportunities are available for brown bear photography through the use of aerial transportation to the interior of the island. Guiding service for hunting and photography, available in and around Kodiak, is required for non-residents. Headquarters in Kodiak. Mailing address: Refuge Manager, Box 825, Kodiak.

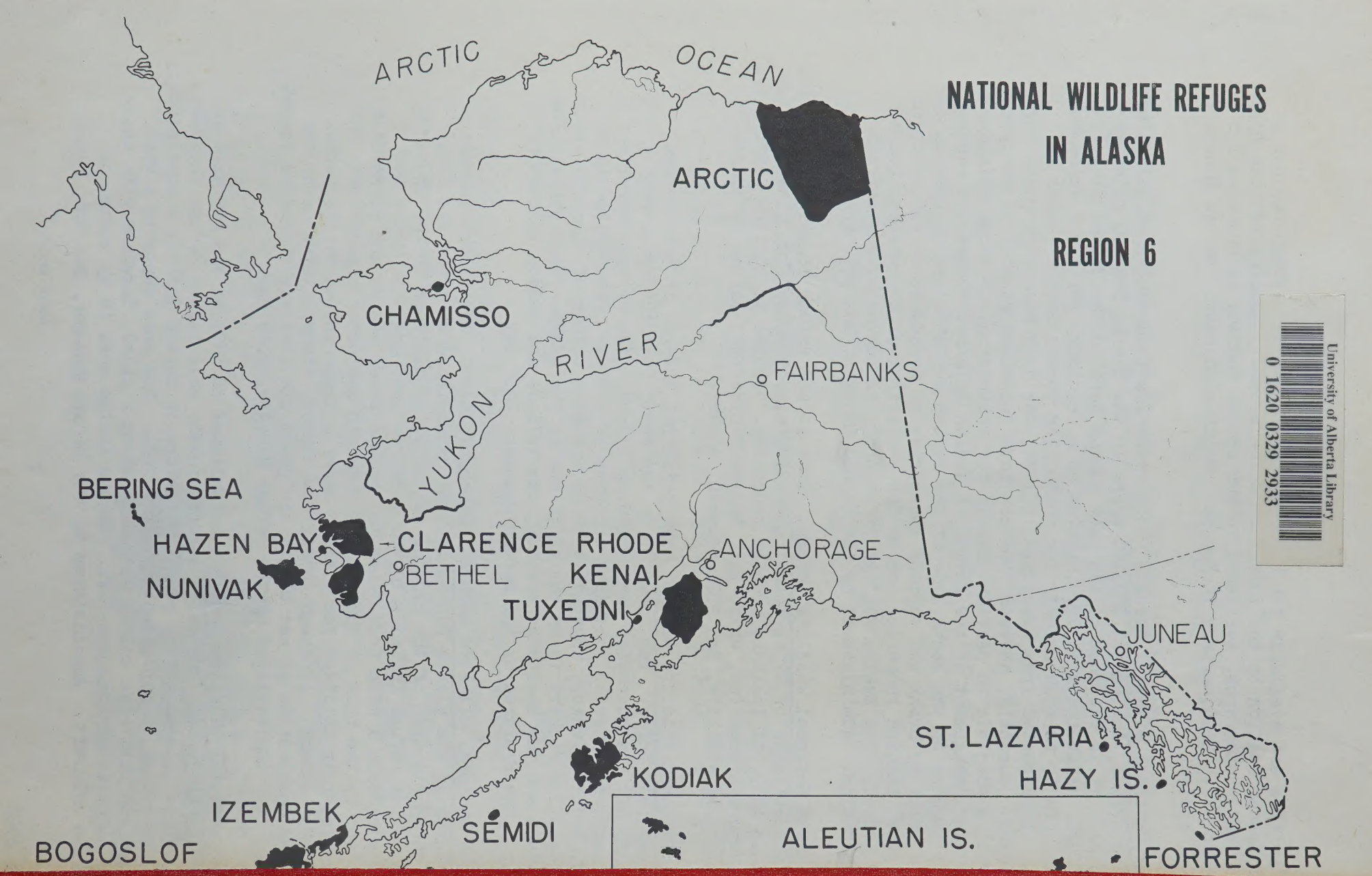
Nunivak National Wildlife Refuge. This refuge, a tundra-covered island of volcanic origin, includes 1,109,400 acres in the Bering Sea 150 miles west of Bethel. It is the home of the only muskox herd in the United States. The refuge, established in 1929, serves as a sanctuary for the development of this herd to furnish animals for restocking former muskox ranges in Alaska. Transported from Greenland in 1930, the herd made slow gains for many years. Recently, however, numbers have increased rapidly to the point where it is possible to provide animals for restocking. A large reindeer herd, under management of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, shares the range. Coastal lagoons on the south side of the island are utilized as resting and feeding areas by brant and various subspecies of Canada geese during migration. Vast seabird rookeries are on the sea cliffs of the western coast of the island. The Eskimo village of Mekoryuk is served by regular air transportation. Administered by the Refuge Manager, Box 500, Kenai.

St. Lazaria National Wildlife Refuge. This island refuge comprising 65 acres is at the entrance of Sitka Sound, approximately 12 miles from Sitka. Established in 1909, it includes seabird rookeries. Closed to hunting and fishing. For further information, write to: Regional Director, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Box 2021, Juneau, Alaska.

Semidi National Wildlife Refuge. The principal islands in this refuge comprise 8,400 acres. The group is in the North Pacific approximately 100 miles off the southwest end of Kodiak Island. The refuge supports large seabird rookeries including colonies of puffins, auklets, petrels, murres, and kittiwakes, together with an enormous colony of fulmars. A large sea lion rookery is on the south end of the group. With precipitous shorelines and few sheltered beaches, the islands are seldom visited by vessels. Administered by the Refuge Manager, Cold Bay.

Simeonof National Wildlife Refuge. Simeonof Island, one of the Shumagin group south of the Alaska Peninsula, was established in 1958 as a focal point for protection of the growing sea otter populations in the Shumagin Islands. The refuge includes 10,400 acres of land and water, and the boundary extends 1 mile from shore to include shoal waters and rocks used as habitat by the bulk of the present Shumagin sea otter population. The island proper is utilized for grazing under a lease issued by the Bureau of Land Management. Although relatively remote, those interested in the study and observation of sea otters can reach the area via chartered vessel or aircraft. Administered by the Refuge Manager, Cold Bay.

Tuxedni National Wildlife Refuge. Established in 1909 at the entrance to Tuxedni Harbor on the west side of Cook Inlet, this island refuge includes 6,400 acres. Its principal physical feature is Chisik Island, a precipitous rock mass rising to approximately 2,600 feet. The area supports a vast black-legged kittiwake colony extending about 2 miles, together with associated colonial nesting sea-fowl. Access to the area is by vessel or chartered aircraft. Administered by the Refuge Manager, Box 500, Kenai.



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